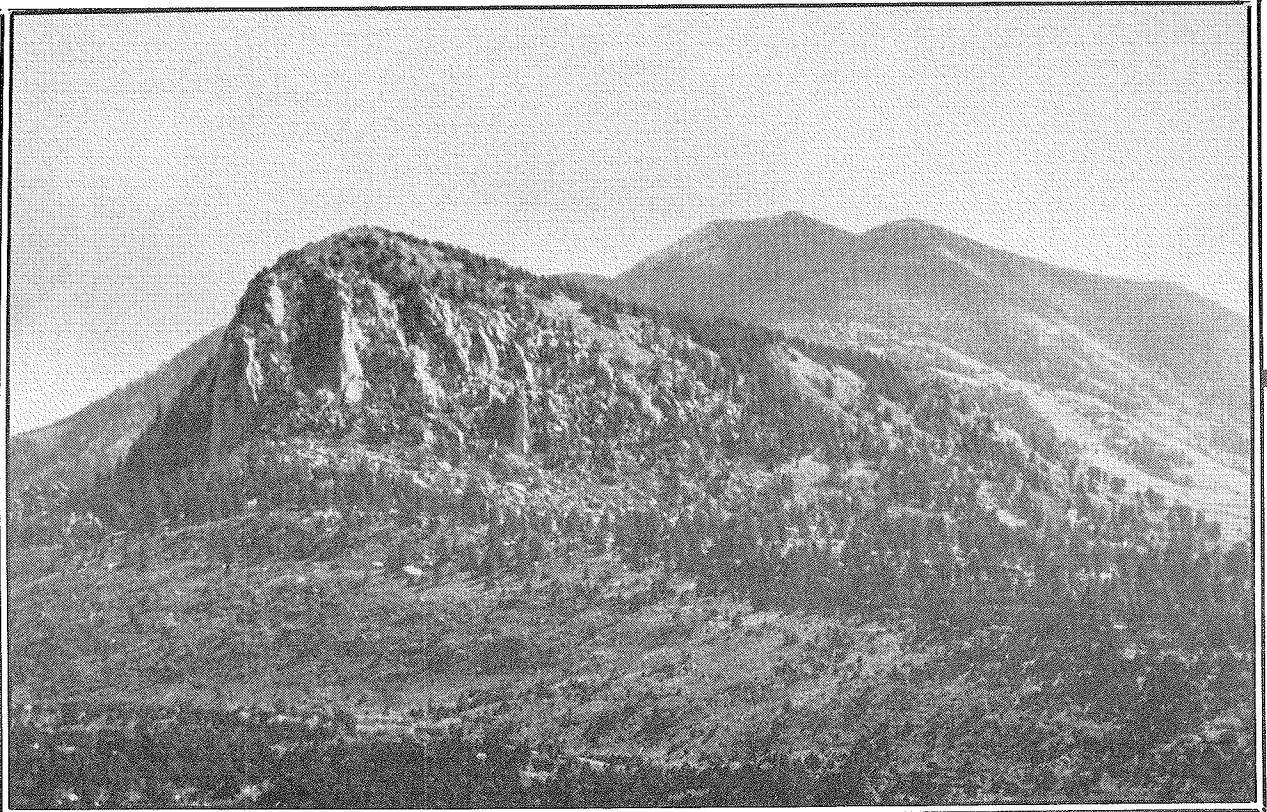


Mt. Pennell  
WSA



# MT. PENNELL WSA

R. 8 E.

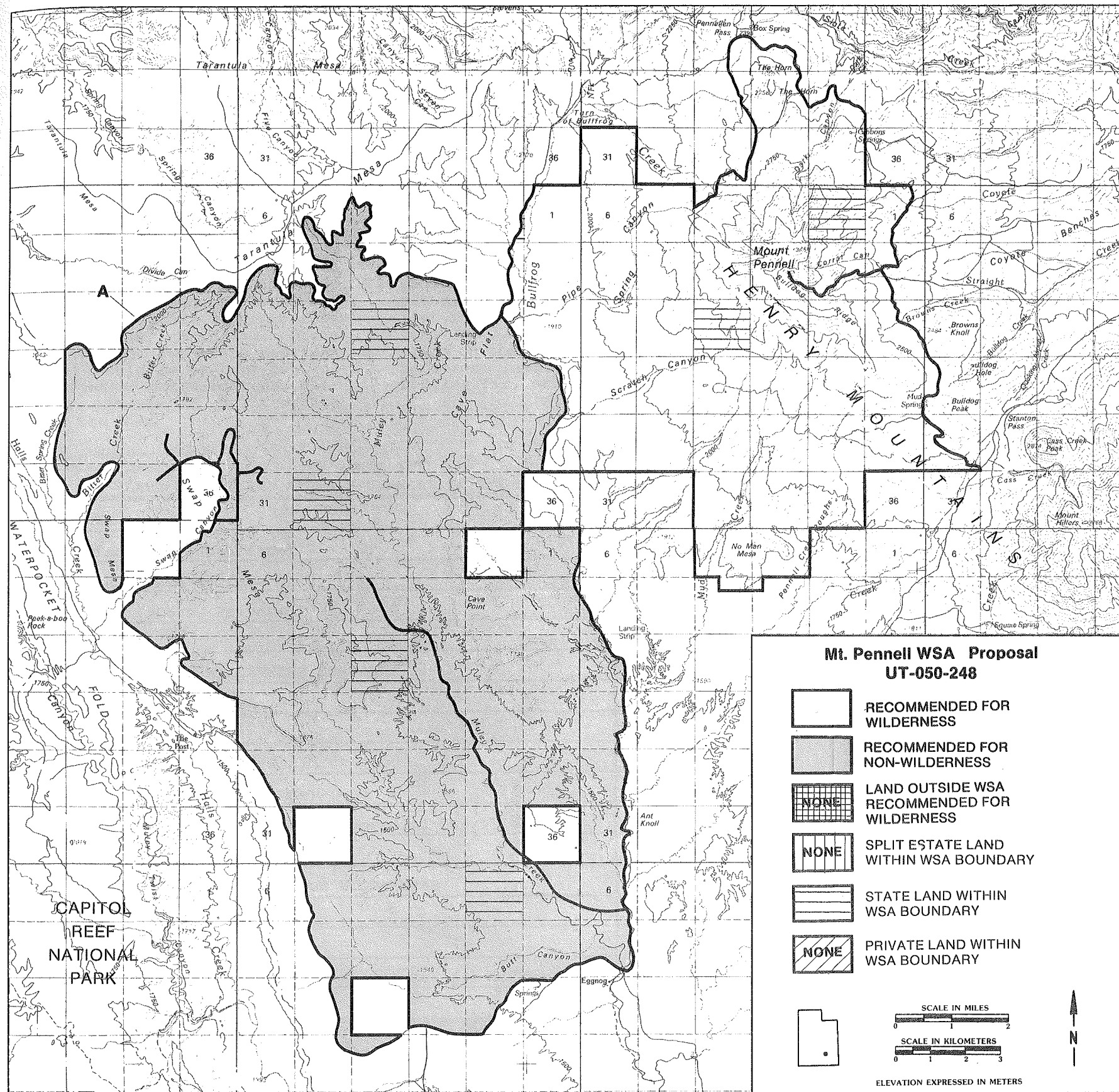
R. 9 E.

R. 10 E.

T. 33 S.

T. 34 S.

T. 35 S.



# MT. PENNELL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

## 1. THE STUDY AREA: 74,300 acres

The Mt. Pennell Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (UT-050-248), is in eastern Garfield County and is just east of Capitol Reef National Park and about 30 miles south-southwest of Hanksville, Utah. The study area is comprised of a roughly square northeastern section and an elongated western section (see Map). The longest dimensions are 17 miles from north to south and 16 miles from east to west. The WSA includes 74,300 acres of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and six sections (3,836 acres) of inheld State lands (see Table 1). Two State sections (1,277 acres) would be in the portion that is recommended for wilderness designation. No private or split-estate lands are in the WSA.

The boundary of the portion recommended for wilderness designation, is mostly along roads and ways on the east, west, and north sides and along section lines on the south side that exclude State sections but still include terrain with wilderness values.

The WSA is in the Henry Mountains, an area classic in the history of American geology for studies of igneous intrusion, geologic structure, and geomorphology. Mt Pennell is the second highest peak in the Henry Mountains (11,371 feet above sea level). Several deep canyons cut the sides of the mountain, which on the higher slopes supports oak, Ponderosa pine, subalpine fir, spruce, Douglas fir, and aspen.

TABLE 1  
LAND STATUS AND ACREAGE SUMMARY IN THE STUDY AREA

	ACRES
<b>WITHIN THE WSA</b>	
BLM (surface and subsurface)	74,300
Split-Estate (BLM surface only)	0
In-holdings (State, Private)	3,836
Total	78,136
<b>WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY</b>	
BLM (within the WSA)	25,800
BLM (outside the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (within the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (outside the WSA)	0
Total BLM land recommended for wilderness	25,800
In-holdings (State, private)	1,277
<b>WITHIN THE AREA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS</b>	
BLM	48,500
Split-Estate	0
Total BLM land not recommended for wilderness	48,500
In-holdings (State, Private)	2,559

Source: BLM File Data

## MT. PENNELL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Vegetation in the lower elevations is mostly pinyon-juniper and associated grasses. The Henry Mountains bison herd inhabits the WSA and vicinity.

The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and is included in the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) finalized in November 1990. Three alternatives were analyzed in the EIS: a partial wilderness alternative where 25,800 acres would be designated as wilderness and the remaining 48,500 acres would be released for uses other than wilderness, which is the recommendation in this report; a no wilderness (no action) alternative; and an all wilderness alternative.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE:

25,800 acres  
(recommended for wilderness)  
48,500 acres  
(recommended for nonwilderness)

The recommendation for this WSA is to designate 25,800 acres as wilderness and to release the remaining 48,500 acres for uses other than wilderness (see Map). Designation of the entire area as wilderness is considered to be the environmentally preferable alternative as it would result in the least change from the natural environment over the long term. The alternative selected, however, would be implemented in a manner which would utilize all practical means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts. BLM recommends that the cherry-stemmed road on Bulldog Ridge be extended to an existing communication right-of-way and that the communication site be enlarged to about 200 feet by 200 feet to allow for a microwave tower that would provide telephone service to the community of Caineville and the ranches in the Notom Road area.

This recommendation for wilderness will further apply to any additional in-holding acreage acquired through purchase or exchange with willing owners. The Appendix lists all in-holdings and provides information on acquisition.

The portion of the WSA recommended for wilderness is that part of the WSA that contains the best wilderness values. Essentially all of the area recommended

for wilderness designation is natural and about 69 percent has outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Little or no conflict with mineral-related or other land uses would occur. Mt. Pennell is the second highest peak in the Henry Mountains. From atop of its summit at 11,371 feet, stunning vistas can be seen all the way to Capitol Reef National Park. Mt. Pennell crowns an area of great topographic and ecological diversity. It is an awe-inspiring landscape of badlands, mesas, and mountains. On the higher slopes one can find stands of oakbrush, aspen, and fir trees. Perennial streams and springs support riparian vegetation. All of the recommended area is crucial-critical deer and/or bison range. Mountain lions, coyotes, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons also provide visitors a sensation of being in wilderness.

Much of the opposite is true for the area not recommended for wilderness. More than 93 percent of this area is considered natural, but outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are lacking. BLM believes that wilderness values are of a high quality in areas where outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation exist, preferably in combination with special features. In forming this recommendation, the portions of the WSA with outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and special features were included where possible within a manageable boundary. More than 13 million tons of coal probably occur in this portion of the WSA. Bison roam the area, but only 1,270 acres in the coal-bearing portion of the WSA are classified as unsuitable for surface mining. Extraction of the coal in the short term is unlikely but coal mining may occur in the long term.

### 3. CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION

#### Wilderness Characteristics

##### A. Naturalness

Naturalness is defined as an attribute in which the evidence of man is substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor and where minor imprints of man



## MT. PENNELL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

exhibit no cumulative impact that is substantially noticeable. About 25,790 acres in the area recommended for wilderness designation are natural; only 10 acres do not meet the standards for naturalness.

Most of the eastern portion of the WSA is in a natural condition. Four miles of road south of Mt. Pennell have been cherry-stemmed and are not part of the WSA. Several cabins used for mining claim assessment work, at the northeastern edge of the recommended portion, affect naturalness on 10 acres of the WSA.

More than 93 percent (45,200 acres) of the remainder of the WSA are natural, but opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are not outstanding.

### B. Solitude

About 17,800 acres (69 percent) of the recommended portion meet the standards for outstanding opportunities for solitude. Mt. Pennell, with several prominent ridges and deep canyons on all sides, provides significant screening for visitors. Screening is further enhanced by scattered pinyon, juniper, aspen, and scrub oak on the southern slopes and spruce, fir, pine, and aspen on the northern slopes. The summit of Mt. Pennell provides vistas of hundreds of square miles of desert, with little or no sign of human activity.

Most of the portion not recommended for designation is relatively flat and vegetation is generally too sparse to provide screening, hence opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

### C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

About 17,800 acres or 69 percent of the recommended area, meet the standards for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation as well as for solitude. Backpacking and hiking opportunities are excellent because of easy access, the size of the area, and the variety of terrain. Hiking routes allow access to the summit of Mt. Pennell, from which views of parts of southern Utah and features in Colorado and Arizona are possible. The Horn, a prominent outcrop on the north end of the WSA,

offers excellent opportunities for technical rock climbing because of easy access and a wide variety of technical difficulty; it perhaps provides the best climbing opportunities in central Utah. Because of the nature of the WSA, opportunities for photography and geologic and biologic observations are outstanding.

In the portions of the WSA not recommended for wilderness designation, opportunities for primitive recreation are not exceptional, although the free-roaming bison in the WSA and vicinity are frequently seen in summer and fall.

### D. Special Features

Four distinct biological life zones are within the WSA due to nearly 5,000 feet of change in elevation. Although the presence of bison in the WSA in summer is part of the naturalness of the WSA, their appearance is also considered to be a special feature.

Portions of the WSA are summer range for the Henry Mountain bison herd, and bison are frequently seen in the vicinity of The Horn. Cougar, a wildlife species associated with wilderness, inhabit the WSA. Peregrine falcons and bald eagles, listed as endangered species and five animal species that are considered sensitive may inhabit or use the WSA.

One plant species (*Sclerocactus wrightiae*) which is listed as endangered and three plant species that are considered sensitive may occur in the WSA.

Refer to Appendix 4 and the Affected Environment, Vegetation and Wildlife Including Special Status Species sections of the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Final EIS for additional information.

### Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

#### A. Expanding the Diversity of Natural Systems and Features as Represented by Ecosystems

Wilderness designation of this WSA would add a combination of potential natural vegetation (PNV) ecosystems not presently represented in the NWPS.

# MT. PENNELL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

PNV is the vegetative type that would eventually become climax vegetation if not altered by human interference, and is not necessarily the vegetation that is currently present in an area.

The WSA is in the Colorado Plateau Province/Ecoregion. Four types of PNV would be expected to develop in the WSA: Juniper-pinyon woodland (46,000 acres), Arizona pine forest (6,300 acres), saltbush-greasewood (20,000 acres), and spruce-fir-Douglas fir (2,000 acres).

The first three types of PNV are represented in the NWPS nationally but only juniper-pinyon woodland is currently represented in the NWPS in Utah. Colorado Plateau spruce-fir-Douglas fir is not represented at all in the NWPS, nor is the combination of the four types of PNV. A significant number of all types is represented in other BLM study areas except for spruce-fir-Douglas fir, which would be found in only one other WSA in Utah. This information is summarized in Table 2 from data compiled in December 1989.

TABLE 2  
ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION

BAILEY-KUCHLER CLASSIFICATION (PNV)	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
	AREAS	ACRES	AREAS	ACRES
NATIONWIDE (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)				
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	11	1,401,745	84	2,098,005
Arizona Pine Forest	3	26,300	8	13,750
Saltbush-Greasewood	1	20,000	17	374,003
Spruce-Fir-Douglas Fir	0	0	2	4,000
UTAH (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)				
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	1	26,000	53	1,660,198
Arizona Pine Forest	0	0	8	13,750
Saltbush-Greasewood	1	20,000	17	374,003
Spruce-Fir-Douglas Fir	0	0	2	4,000

Source: BLM File Data.

## B. Assessing the Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Recreation within a Days Driving Time (5 Hours) of Major Population Centers

The WSA is not within a 5-hour drive of any major population centers.

## C. Balancing the Geographic Distribution of Wilderness Areas

The Mt. Pennell WSA could contribute to balancing the geographic distribution of areas within the NWPS in the Colorado Plateau region. There are three designated wilderness areas within 100

miles of the WSA. In a clockwise direction beginning to the east, are the 45,000-acre Dark Canyon Wilderness (U.S. Forest [FS]), the 112,400-acre Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness (BLM), and to the west the 25,751-acre Box-Death Hollow Wilderness (FS). No designated wilderness areas are within 150 miles north of the Mt. Pennell WSA. In the Colorado Plateau, there are only 34 areas comprising 1,786,538 acres, or about 13 percent of the total wilderness area in the seven state Rocky Mountain-Intermountain Region.

## MT. PENNELL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Designation of the WSA would not contribute to the NWPS in the Four Corners Region, however. In the Four Corners states (Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico), as of January 1987, there were 117 designated wilderness areas comprising 6,988,052 acres.

Manageability (The area must be capable of being managed effectively to preserve its wilderness character.)

The entire WSA can be managed as wilderness to preserve overall the values now present in the area. Current uses such as livestock grazing and maintenance of a corral, 4 miles of fence, 6 miles of pipeline, seven livestock reservoirs, two wells, and two rangeland enclosures would continue with only minimal effect on wilderness values. Only the corral, 2 miles of fence, and one reservoir would be in the area recommended as wilderness.

There are no oil and gas leases or other leases in the WSA and new leases would not be issued if the area is designated wilderness.

In the area recommended for wilderness there are 1,080 acres in 54 mining claims. Because of the potential for locatable minerals and the presence of grandfathered mining operations on Bulldog Ridge it is expected that a portion of these and future claims existing at the time of designation will be explored and possibly developed in the wilderness. Such developments will probably be small and would disturb only about 25 acres of the recommended area following wilderness designation. Some of these activities would be visible from terrain surrounding Mt. Pennell and there would be slight reductions in the wilderness quality of the area. The presence of two State sections (1,277 acres) in the recommended area could create additional manageability problems because BLM would be required to provide reasonable access to State lands and would have no control over activities on State lands. Because there is some potential for locatable minerals in the WSA, it is projected that in the foreseeable future there would be at least some exploration on State lands that could reduce wilderness values in small parts of the recommended wilderness.

The area not recommended for wilderness would be more difficult to manage for wilderness values than the recommended area because there are more mining claims, i.e. 173, covering 3,460 acres, and there are four in-held State sections (2,559 acres) where mineral exploration is likely. Additionally, there is a cherry-stemmed road to the center of the area and six additional sections of State land cherry-stemmed from the area.

The WSA can be managed reasonably as wilderness to preserve values now present in the area. Only two State sections (1,277 acres) are within the area recommended for wilderness, which would reduce management concerns regarding access or acquisition of these lands. Both sections are leased for grazing, which is compatible with authorized use of BLM lands for 891 cattle and sheep animal unit months (AUMs). The State section southwest of Mt. Pennell is leased for oil, gas, and hydrocarbons, but it is believed that the potential for fluid hydrocarbons in the WSA is low and known coal deposits are in the portion of the WSA not recommended for wilderness. The other State section, on the northeastern slopes of Mt. Pennell, has a metalliferous lease. Access to this section could be available from a State section diagonally adjacent to the northeast, on which there are roads. The likelihood of mineral development is considered to be low, however.

### Energy and Mineral Resource Values

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) assessed the mineral and energy resource potential in the portion of the WSA that is recommended for wilderness designation (25,800 acres) and prepared a mineral assessment report for the Mt. Pennell WSA (USGS Bulletin 1751-D, Russell F. Dubiel, et al., 1990). The report indicates that subeconomic measured coal resources of approximately 1.3 million tons occur within the western boundary of the area that was studied. The central portion of the area studied has a moderate mineral resource potential for copper, lead, tin, molybdenum, and zinc, and for silver and gold; the remainder of the area has a low resource potential for these metals. The central part of

## MT. PENNELL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

the area has a low mineral resource potential for uranium and vanadium. The remainder of the study area has a moderate mineral resource potential for uranium and vanadium. The central part of the study area underlain by igneous rocks has a low mineral resource potential for coal; all of the area outside of this central part has a moderate resource potential except in the extreme western part, where the resource potential for coal is high. The entire area that was studied has a low resource potential for oil and gas and for geothermal energy.

### Impacts on Resources

The comparative impact table (Table 3) summarizes the effects on pertinent resources for alternatives considered including designation of the area as wilderness.

### Local Social and Economic Considerations

With BLM's partial wilderness recommendation some potential mineral leases and claims would be precluded in the area designated as wilderness, and related future economic conditions could be altered from what they would be without designation. Because the likelihood of mineral development is low, however, and 65 percent of the WSA would not be designated and fewer restrictions would be placed on mineral-related activities, mineral-derived income would probably not be significantly reduced.

Proposed rangeland improvements on 1,200 acres would be precluded, preventing a future increase of 92 AUMs, \$1,840 in livestock sales, and \$460 ranchers' in labor and investment returns. This would not be significant on a County or regional level.

### Summary of WSA-Specific Public Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Comments received during the early stages of the EIS preparation were used to develop significant study issues and alternatives for the ultimate management of the WSA.

During formal public review of the Draft EIS, a total of 230 inputs specifically

addressing this WSA were received from 544 commenters, including oral statements received at 17 public hearings on the EIS. Each letter or oral testimony was considered to be one input. Duplicate letters or oral statements by the same commenter were not counted as additional inputs or signatures. Each individual was credited with one signature or testimony regardless of the number of inputs. In general, 223 commenters supported wilderness designation for part or all of the WSA, while 313 commenters were opposed. Eight commenters addressed the relative merits of the EIS but took no formal position on wilderness designation.

Those favoring wilderness commented on the special features in the WSA, protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat and cultural resources, and relative lack of nonprimitive recreation and mineral conflicts. The majority of those commenting in favor of wilderness were from urban Utah and other states.

Those opposing wilderness were concerned that wilderness designation would preclude mineral exploration and development, livestock grazing, other uses, and access by the public except for special groups; harm State and local economies; would not be compatible with multiple use; and that the Mt. Pennell WSA is de facto wilderness and other kinds of management in lieu of wilderness would be adequate. The majority of commenters opposing wilderness designation were from rural Utah.

One Federal agency, the National Park Service (NPS), commented on the Draft EIS for this WSA. The NPS commented that there were no clear rationale provided in the Draft EIS for why the proposed wilderness alternative was chosen. The NPS stated that the proposed wilderness in many of the WSAs, including Mt. Pennell, were drastically reduced in size when there is no real difference in impacts of the various alternative. The NPS also pointed out that Mt. Pennell should be included in the list of WSAs that adjoin NPS areas, as the WSA adjoins Capitol Reef National Park.

No comment letters were received on the Final EIS.



## MT. PENNELL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

There are six State in-holdings (3,836 acres) in the WSA. In commenting on the Draft EIS, the State of Utah expressed general opposition to wilderness designation but did not take a definite position regarding wilderness designation of the WSA. The State noted that there were inconsistencies in the discussion of State lands and the drawing of WSA boundaries relative to State lands. The State also commented that the geology section was inadequate and that BLM's proposed action had been mislabeled. According to the State, the Mt. Pennell WSA is ranked as having both high wilderness values and high conflicts compared with other WSAs in the region. In their opinion, the 25,800-acre partial wilderness alternative would avoid most of the conflicts. However, an additional adjustment on the southwest side of the WSA was favored by the State to allow for a 1,183-acre chaining project for wildlife and livestock.

The Mt. Pennell WSA is in Garfield County. The Garfield County Master Plan covers this WSA. In the plan, Garfield County proposed that 142,653 acres in three BLM and one FS area be recommended to the Utah Congressional delegation as wilderness. The county plan recommends that the remaining lands within the county, including the Mt. Pennell WSA, be retained for multiple uses.

The County Commission has endorsed the Consolidated Local Government Response to Wilderness that opposes wilderness designation of BLM lands in Utah.

# MT. PENNELL WSA

Table 3  
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Alternatives			
Recommendation		All Wilderness	
Partial Wilderness		(74,300 Acres)	
Issue Topic	No Action/No Wilderness		
Impacts on Wilderness Values	Wilderness values would not be protected by wilderness designation and loss would occur as intrusions increase. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on 1,267 acres of the WSA because of locatable mineral exploration and development, range land development, and construction of access roads to in-held State sections. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be indirectly reduced in quality on up to an additional 7,430 acres. Wildlife would benefit from range land developments and water and vegetation treatments. Some Class A scenery would be reduced in quality. Vehicular use of 22 miles of ways and mining-related roads would detract from opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. This alternative would not complement the NPS proposal for wilderness management in the contiguous Capitol Reef National Park.	Wilderness values would not be protected by wilderness designation and loss would occur as intrusions increase. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on 1,267 acres of the WSA because of locatable mineral exploration and development, range land development, and construction of access roads to in-held State sections. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be indirectly reduced in quality on up to an additional 7,430 acres. Wildlife would benefit from range land developments and water and vegetation treatments. Some Class A scenery would be reduced in quality. Vehicular use of 22 miles of ways and mining-related roads would detract from opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. This alternative would not complement the NPS proposal for wilderness management in the contiguous Capitol Reef National Park.	Wilderness designation would preserve overall the wilderness values in the WSA. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on 26 acres of the WSA because of locatable mineral exploration and development and construction of access roads to in-held State sections, and would be indirectly reduced in quality on an additional 1,486 acres of the WSA. Special features would be protected. Some Class A scenery would be reduced in quality. This alternative would complement the NPS proposal for wilderness management in the contiguous Capitol Reef National Park.
Impacts on Soils	Erosion and soil loss would remain at present levels because only 26 acres of surface disturbance would occur.	Erosion and soil loss would remain at present levels because only 26 acres of surface disturbance would occur.	Erosion and soil loss would remain at present levels because only 26 acres of surface disturbance would occur.
Impacts on Vegetation	Special status species and vegetation types would receive additional protection on 35 percent of the WSA. Impacts on these resources from projected surface disturbance would not be significant because less than 1 percent of the WSA would be disturbed.	The 1,267 acres of projected disturbance would affect less than 1 percent of the WSA and would alter 5 percent of the pinyon-juniper woodland in the WSA. The viability of populations of special status species would be maintained.	Vegetation types and special status species would be protected by this alternative because the potential for surface disturbance would be reduced.
Impacts on Mineral and Energy Exploration and Production	This alternative would limit potential exploration for locatable minerals. The potential for production of small amounts of locatable minerals would be foregone.	This alternative would not adversely affect or further restrict mineral and energy resource exploration and production in the WSA because mineral leasing, location of mining claims, and mineral developments could occur without restriction for protection of wilderness values.	Wilderness designation would limit potential exploration and development opportunities for locatable minerals. The potential for production of small amounts of locatable minerals could be foregone.

# MT. PENNELL WSA

Table 3 (Continued)  
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Alternatives	
Recommendation Partial Wilderness (25,800 Acres)	All Wilderness (74,300 Acres)
<p><b>Issue Topic</b></p> <p><b>Impacts on Wildlife Habitat and Populations</b></p> <p>There would be no significant impacts to wildlife populations. Wildlife habitat and populations would receive additional protection and would benefit from solitude on 35 percent of the WSA. A slight increase in bison forage (40 AUMs) would not be possible. The bison population would remain at present levels.</p> <p><b>Impacts on Livestock Management</b></p> <p>Current levels of grazing use would not be affected. A small increase in livestock AUMs (92) would be precluded. Operating costs would increase slightly because of restrictions on access to 3 miles of ways and five sheep camps.</p>	<p>The wildlife species would be protected by this alternative. A small increase in bison forage (40 AUMs) would not be realized. The bison population would remain at present levels.</p> <p>Wilderness designation would not affect current grazing levels but would affect management and supervision of livestock. Restrictions on the use of the 22 miles of ways in the WSA would be an inconvenience to 17 livestock permittees and would result in slight increases in the cost of management. Access to the sheep camps would be restricted. A 1,200-acre chaining and seeding with a potential for production of 92 AUMs of livestock forage and one livestock reservoir would be precluded.</p>
<p><b>Impacts on Visual Resources</b></p> <p>Visual quality would be protected on the designated portion which is 35 percent of the WSA. Direct loss of visual quality would occur on less than 1 percent (26 acres) of the WSA from disturbance and an indirect perceived loss would occur on up to an additional 2 percent (1,486 acres) of the WSA.</p>	<p>Visual quality would be protected throughout the WSA. Direct loss of visual quality would occur on much less than 1 percent (26 acres) of the WSA from disturbance and an indirect perceived loss would occur on up to an additional 2 percent (1,486 acres) of the WSA.</p>
<p><b>Impacts on Visual Resources</b></p> <p>Visual quality would be protected on the designated portion which is 35 percent of the WSA. Direct loss of visual quality would occur on less than 1 percent (26 acres) of the WSA from disturbance and an indirect perceived loss would occur on up to an additional 2 percent (1,486 acres) of the WSA.</p>	<p>Visual quality would be protected throughout the WSA. Direct loss of visual quality would occur on much less than 1 percent (26 acres) of the WSA from disturbance and an indirect perceived loss would occur on up to an additional 2 percent (1,486 acres) of the WSA.</p>

# MT. PENNELL WSA

Table 3 (Continued)  
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Alternatives			
Issue Topic	Recommendation Partial Wilderness (25,800 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness	All Wilderness (74,300 Acres)
	Impacts on Cultural Resources	Impacts on Cultural Resources	Impacts on Cultural Resources
Impacts on Recreation	Thirty-five percent of the WSA including six recorded sites would receive protection as a result of wilderness designation under this alternative. Over the long term, protection from most surface disturbance would probably outweigh increased potential for vandalism associated with increased visitation. The nondesignated area, including 46 recorded sites, would continue to be protected under existing laws. In this area, intentional vandalism and artifact collection may increase due to increased activity and accessibility.	Inadvertent loss or damage to archaeological sites may occur due to mineral exploration, surface development, and/or continued ORV use. Intentional vandalism and artifact collection may increase due to increased activity and accessibility. Cultural resource sites could be managed without restrictions for protection of other wilderness values.	Over the long term, protection from most surface disturbance would probably outweigh increased potential for vandalism. Closure of all vehicular access would protect sites from damage and decrease accessibility in the unit.
	Primitive recreational opportunities would be preserved in the 25,800-acre designated area. Primitive recreation values could be reduced in quality on the 48,000-acre nondesignated area through continued vehicular use of 19 miles of ways. Most of the WSA would be available for motorized hunting. Both primitive and motorized recreational use would increase.	The quality of primitive recreation opportunities would be reduced by mineral exploration, chaining and seeding, and continued use of 22 miles of ways. Both primitive and motorized recreational use would increase.	This alternative would benefit primitive recreation by reducing the likelihood for surface-disturbing activities and increasing management attention and recognition of recreational values. Approximately 645 visitor days per year of motorized recreational use now occurring on 22 miles of ways would be foregone. Therefore, access for hunting would be more difficult. Primitive recreational use would increase but overall recreational use may initially decrease. Over the long term, visitation would increase.
Impacts on Economic Conditions	This alternative would result in temporary impacts on local economic conditions through a reduction of 32 jobs in the locatable mineral industry that would be possible with the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative. Otherwise, economic conditions would not be significantly affected.	Present economic conditions would not be affected. Mineral activity in the foreseeable future could result in an increase of 48 jobs or a 2.4-percent increase in employment for Garfield County or a 6-percent increase in Wayne County.	Wilderness designation would result in temporary impacts on local economic conditions through a reduction of 32 jobs in the locatable mineral industry that would be possible with the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative. Otherwise, economic conditions would not be significantly affected.

# MT. PENNELL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Appendix  
Estimated Costs of Acquisition of Non-Federal Holdings Within Areas Recommended for Designation <sup>a</sup>

Legal Description (Prior to any Subdivision)	Total Acreage	Number of Owners (If Parcel has been subdivided)	Type of Ownership by Estate (Federal, State, Private, Other) (Surface Estate) (Subsurface Estate)	Presently Proposed for Acquisition (Yes, No)	Preferred Method of Acquisition (Purchase, Exchange, Other)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Land Costs)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Processing Costs)
T. 33 S., R. 10 E., Sec. 2	637.20		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 33 S., R. 10 E., Sec. 16	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000

<sup>a</sup> The estimated costs listed in this appendix in no way represent a Federal appraised value of the land or mineral estate, but are rough estimates based on sales or exchanges of lands or mineral estates with similar characteristics to those included in the WSA. The estimates are for purposes of establishing a range of potential costs to the government of acquiring non-Federal holdings and in no way represent an offer to purchase or exchange at the cost estimate included in this appendix.